A R O M A S A I R

Volume I, Issue 2 Monday, November 24, 1975

THANKSGIVING IN THE AIR:

Wednesday, November 26, the COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF AROMAS presents "America, My Home," a program of Thanksgiving with patriotic emphasis. Bring a friend and a pumpkin pie! Call Pastor William Edwards to learn more about church activities: office, 724-2666, or home, 722-9507.

Friday, November 28, the GRANGE HALL will be filled with folks enjoying a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., and a program by the FREEDOM SINGERS at 8. The singers, directed by George Foxworthy, will perform a cantata, "I Love America" by John W. Peterson. This is a family affair.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The Iconoclast Comments: Thanksgiving and other excuses for self-indulgence

How many of us this Thursday will pause amid the turkey and the pie for a moment's reflection on what this day, Thanksgiving, means? Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter. For most of us, rituals a bit more glorified than the "Thank God It's Friday" party. Another excuse to eat too much and drink too much. A long weekend to recover while discussing "Uncle Louie made a pig of himself by eating everything in sight" and "how ridiculous Aunt Heddie looked in a bare midriff" or "how hard it was to ignore Cousin Melvin's drinking problem." And let's not forget the kiddies: "what a little monster Leroy is, but what can you expect with a father like Melvin;" and "how can poor Mabel put up with him?" Turkey. Turkey this and turkey that. Turkey a la king. Turkey sandwiches. We're sick of turkey. For God's sake, let's have something different for Christmas.

For God's sake, let us - by all means - have something different for Christmas. An end to the snobbery and bigotry that our forefathers left behind them (and practiced with a vengeance - once they were safely over here - against all those who differed from themselves). Let's choose not to perpetuate our shortsightedness, our inability to see beyond a person's color - black, brown, yellow, white (or green with puce and purple dots, etc.) - or anything else. Let's learn to listen to one another, if not with agreement, at least with acceptance of each other's right to his or her opinion. Let's be grateful that - with any luck - our children will be innocent of our sins; discrimination, prejudice, bigotry, snobbery, self-interest, self-importance, and self-satisfaction.

Isn't it time we stopped paying lip-service to empty rituals just so we can eat, drink, and make miserable? Shouldn't we start celebrating the gift of life? All life? I guess we can all be a little thankful (unless we're too smug) that our friends and relatives don't judge us as harshly as we judge them. Or maybe they're just more tactful.

This Thanksgiving let's serve up some mutual understanding with the cranberry sauce and oyster dressing. Make a big batch so it can hang around at least as long as the rest of the leftovers we never seem to finish. Use it to season the whipped cream on the pumpkin pie and include a generous portion in every turkey sandwich going off to school and work. A little tolerance would be nice, too, with or without the understanding. Our personal freedom depends on it.

Shirley Billingsly
P.O. Box 685, Aromas

What Aromas Needs

What does Aromas need? I'll bet each of you who read that first sentence had an immediate thought about what you think Aromas needs. Well, one of the things I think Aromas needs is a series of articles in the Aromas Air on "What Aromas Needs." I will give my opinion this edition, and hope we will get one article per issue with the opinions of others on this topic.

What Aromas Needs, continued:

I feel that we have a segment of our population that is very much neglected. There have been many activities planned for children between the ages of 5 and 14: 4-H, Scouts, after school recreation, school carnivals, and Christmas parties at the Grange and Firehouse each year. But very little is done for people between the ages of 14 and 24. I've questioned some young people about how they spend their time and I have not liked what I've learned. Social contact and communication seem even more important to people in this group than they are to the rest of us. I would like to see some attention given in this area.

Our school principal, Duane Peterson, has recognized this problem also. He has made one exploratory step toward a remedy by planning a social for the Christmas season which includes young people along with the adults and children.

I would like to see one of the local enterprising merchants open a "Bistro" or coffee house for young people with music available on a juke box and one night a week for amateur musicians to perform. Coffee, soft drinks, and fruit juices could be sold. I would enjoy visiting this sort of establishment myself. I love music and dancing but do not enjoy bars and the atmosphere they create.

Folk dancing is another activity that I would like to see enjoyed by residents of Aromas. This is an activity that can be participated in by all ages. I feel young people would enjoy the social contacts and high spirits that folk dancing creates.

I have named one problem and suggested some solutions. Is there anyone else out there who has a problem and a solution? Or perhaps just a list of observations on what Aromas needs? Send in your lists and/or articles to:

Linda Child
Aromas School, or call me at 722-7245

Fire District

A tax increase election was passed on May 27, 1975, allowing a 15¢ tax increase to benefit our fire district. It was a resounding victory for our district with 226 votes for the increase. The increase is for new equipment and repairs, etc. The fire commissioners were to have a special meeting to decide whether to take this year's increase or to turn it down for this year. Somewhere interest was lacking because they never held this special meeting.

Some of the commissioners did not seem concerned enough to attend any such meeting. It was quite evident a decision had already been made. So the deadline passed without any official vote on this matter. We gave a vote of confidence to our fire district and our employees. Believing it was in our best interest to better our fire district. Had the vote not passed, our alternatives were meager to say the least. One such alternative was the possibility of losing our 3 paid men and having all volunteers. We should feel very proud to have the dedicated and hard-working men we have. At this time we would like to stress that we as a district only pay 3 men. The other 4 men employed at our station are on a federally funded program - C.E.T.A.

One other alternative we might mention is the contracting of the California State Division of Forestry. Now let's look at why that may not be a very feasible idea: 1) We would have little control of personnel manning our station. 2) Our taxes will go from $.436 (which was voted) to from $.80 to $1.20. We will have no control over this increase. 3) One possibility is that our fire insurance rates will go up. 4) One proposal put forth to the commissioners was that four forestry personnel man our station at a cost for salary alone of between $60,000 and $66,000 a year. At present our entire operating cost is $66,000, which includes salaries, maintenance, etc. 5) We will still have the same commissioners and we will have total responsibility for maintenance and up-keep of station and equipment.

Instead of losing our present standard of fire and fire and first-aid protection, we voted to keep our district intact and better it at the same time. Somehow the wishes of the public went right over some of our fire commissioners' heads. They checked into the possibility of contracting forestry in a closed executive meeting on November 11, 1975.

We need and want our district left intact. We believe it is in our community's best interest and that we can get the best possible service at the lowest possible rate. However, we may suggest at this time that we have concerned and public-spirited commissioners on our board! Someone who is able to say "no" when it is appropriate and yet will say "yes" when it is so sorely needed.

Joyce Carter, P.O. Box 195, Aromas

I NEED

Bilingual Testing

On November 17th and 18th Aromas School took part in a Bilingual Evaluation Project. The school was a "comparison" school for the study conducted by the American Institutes for Research. A comparison school is one which has students with ethnic, socio-economic and language backgrounds similar to those of students attending schools offering bilingual programs. The students in the comparison schools do not receive bilingual instruction. Schools in 173 school districts across the United States took part in this project.

The purpose of the nation-wide study is to assess the effect of bilingual education on school performance of both English-language dominant and Spanish-language dominant children.

2nd through 6th grade students at Aromas and 3 other schools in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District were given tests covering English language skills, Spanish language skills and math. No information about any child's individual score will ever be known by anyone. A report based on the results of these tests will be prepared by the A.I.R. staff and submitted to the U.S. Office of Education. The U.S.O.E. is required to report to Congress and the President on the condition of bilingual education in the U.S. Test information will also be sent back to our district to add to the evaluation of our own educational programs.

The cooperation of those who participated was greatly appreciated. They made a genuine contribution to the education of our children in the Pajaro Valley.

Francia Brooks
P.O. Box 543, Aromas

Letters to the Editor are welcome provided the letter is submitted with your name and address. Please keep your statements to 300 words each. Send articles to P.O. Box 685, Aromas, Ca. 95004. The AIR is for both circulation and ventilation!

WATER DISTRICT regularly scheduled meetings are the third Tuesday of each month. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 7:30 p.m., in the Firehouse. Roy Bolton is General Manager of the Water District and welcomes all interest and attendance. Possible expansion of our water district and better water will be discussed.

A CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE will be held at the Two Bit Shoppe. This will be a community co-op venture; all handicrafts, baked goods, art work, and what-have-you can be sold until Christmas. The cost of rent and advertising will be divided equally by all participants. Sales begin the week after Thanksgiving. Call Pat Jenks, 728-2121, to make arrangements if you have something to sell.

THE NUTCRACKER BALLET will be performed December 5 and 6 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, by the San Jose Dance Theatre and the Santa Cruz County Symphony Orchestra. Aromas School can obtain tickets at reduced group rates on orders of 20 or more. Call the school for further information and to order tickets.

THE SCOUTS are collecting glass, newspapers, and aluminum for recycling. Call the Luzovich's at 724-9292 if you have contributions. The newspapers are recycled in Hollister at NiCal which is open only during regular business hours. The Scouts would appreciate a volunteer to transport papers to Hollister on occasion.

BROWNIE TROUP 4229 now meets every Monday from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Aromas School cafeteria.

AROMAS has residents in three counties. In order to eliminate confusion, you may wish to post these numbers near your phone. Sheriff: Monterey County, 722-3544; San Benito County, 637-5323; Santa Cruz County, 688-1922. Universal County Communications for Emergencies: 724-1911. Water Department (24-hour answering service), 724-8700. P.G.&E. (24-hour answering service), 724-4717.

SCHOOL NEWS:

IMPORTANT MEETING with CARLOS LOPEZ, South Zone School Administrator, will take place Tuesday (tomorrow) evening at 7:30 p.m. at Aromas School. Please be present so your questions regarding student housing and related topics can be dealt with.

AROMAS SCHOOL PROVIDES plenty of Christmas festivities. A Social, Friday, December 12 will feature square dancing, rock music, decorating the hall and tree, and a Sweet Shoppe. This is an event to provide fun for all ages, junior and senior high students included, and everyone is urged to attend. Tuesday, December 16, the students of Aromas School will perform Christmas skits and the like; Thursday, December 18, the musical ode to Christmas will take place. Bake sales will be conducted before and after the programs. (A special plea from the AIR: the Sweet Shoppe and bake sales will help finance the newspaper. If you like what's in the AIR, please call Carole Jones at 724-0588 to volunteer a batch of your favorite holiday goodies.)

PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS occur the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 8 p.m. at the Renaissance School Board Room, Watsonville. These meetings are open to the public, and the agenda for each meeting is available at the Aromas School office. Last Tuesday the results of the state assessment program for 1974-75 were reviewed with careful explanation, and the Board approved the applications for several competitive grants. Aromas citizens are urged to attend these meetings; anyone interested in attending regularly and writing brief reports for the AIR, please call Carole Jones, 724-0588.

PVUSD ADVISORY COMMITTEE met Thursday, November 20, at Renaissance School. This group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month and includes at least one representative from each school which receives special federal or state funding. This is Aromas' first year of membership on the committee, due to state funding of our E.C.E. program. Carole Jones represents Aromas School, and she was elected secretary to the committee. District advisory committee meetings are open to the public, and parent workshops are conducted during the afternoons prior to the meetings. On Thursday, December 18, the workshop will be entitled "Parent Involvement." Anyone interested in attending should call Carole Jones, 724-0588. Baby-sitting services are available at the meeting.

THE P.T.A.-E.C.E. MEETING at Aromas School on Tuesday, November 18, was well attended Teachers Donna Long, Gertrude Carmely, Margaret Herrera, and Classroom Aide Linda Child explained the new E.C.E. program beautifully. The program, which includes Kindergarten through 3rd grades, contains seven vital areas: 1) Individualized reading and math; 2) paid part-time aides in each K-3 classroom; 3) parent participation; 4) an improved record-keeping system; 5) multi-graded P.E. program; 6) multi-graded mini-courses (these multi-graded activities take place afternoons. Each teacher chooses subjects and activities to which she is suited and the children decide which ones they will participate in each week.); 7) a resource room containing instructional materials for the teachers and students. According to the teachers individualized instruction requires about 30 times as much energy as did traditional teaching; therefore, parent participation is most welcome. Anyone interested in volunteering time during school hours may call Aromas School to make arrangements, and should attend the next E.C.E. meeting, December 3, 3 p.m. at the school.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INSERVICE COOPERATIVE presents "The Responsive Environment a series of workshops to be held Saturdays, January 10, February 21, March 13, and April 24. Two other workshops have already begun, but may still be open for enrollment. Registration for these courses is only 50¢ College credit can be arranged; call Libby Balter, Education Planning Coordinator, Child Development Resource Center 688-3024. Other information on topics and times can be provided by Carole Jones, 724-0588.

ALTERNATIVES FOR MEETING NEEDS AND SOLVING PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION: The Traveling Seminar is offered Wednesday, December 10, in San Jose at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. This seminar is free, and further information may be obtained from Carole Jones, 724-0588. The AIR needs a reporter for this event.

A MOVEMENT EDUCATION workshop was provided by Linda Child at Aromas School on November 13. If you are interested in learning how movement can be used in the classroom to help children experience rhythm, dramatize punctuation, and use simple cardboard items for new activities, contact Linda Child at the school. She recently returned from Santa Barbara where she attended a seminar on Movement in the Classroom.

PROFITS from the HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL amounted to $869.65. This money will be used to purchase an intermediate typewriter (with large print for beginning readers) and other needed equipment for the school.

CLERK-TYPIST Cheryl Herly recently moved to Paso Robles, and has been replaced in the school office by Nelly Alvarez from Hollister. This position is funded through C.E.T.A.

AROMAS WOMEN are invited to participate in weekly consciousness-raising discussions. A group currently meets Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and there is strong interest in forming an evening group. The group's purpose is to involve women of all ages and interests in rap sessions which offer an opportunity to share thoughts, ideas and experiences. The group is leaderless; weekly topics are chosen by all members. Discussions of such things as family relationships, body awareness, death, and role-playing bring new perceptions of self to each participant. Women interested in joining a day or evening group should contact Sherry Shubin, 722-9613, or Susan Wisotsky, 722-8852.

WATSONVILLE YWCA offers many programs for women in this area. YW-Ms is a group of women who meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month to hear speakers on topics of contemporary interest. On November 26, school psychologist Jean Doer and teacher Grace Richardson will discuss the Open Classroom and alternative forms of education. The meeting is held at the First United Methodist Church, 229 Stanford, Watsonville, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Child care is available for 50¢ per hour. Call Mary Parker, 722-8681, for further information; new members and visitors are always welcome.

The YW has organized a Big Sister program for our area. Girls 8 through 13 who need extra female guidance and companionship spend about 2 hours a week with volunteer Big Sisters in activities both enjoy. If you would like to be a Big Sister, or if you need one, call Barbara Strain, YW Big Sister Director, 728-1187.

NEED A DROP-IN CHILD CARE CENTER? The YW is sponsoring a group of women who wish to form a daytime co-op for mothers who need to leave children for an hour or two. Eah participant contributes time to the program. If you are interested in helping to establish such a center, call Sherry Shubin, 722-9613.

B & L HARDWARE is a special place. It is also a ceramics workshop. Instructions are given during 2 evening classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 10. Call Linda LaPlante, 728-1522. Orders can be taken for finished ceramics also.

RABBITS FOR SALE. 7 rabbits and 6 bunnies, 3 cages (2 compartments each), $113 for all. Bunnies and cages can be bought separately also. Call the Kings', 379 Carpenteria, 724-4804.

SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES at reduced cost are available to residents of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. In Santa Cruz County, the fees are, for dogs: F $30, M $20; and cats: F $30, M $15. These fees are payable to Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, which acts as a referral service for participating veterinarians. Any additional fees due to complicating conditions are payable directly to the vet who performs the surgery. Dogs receiving surgery must be licensed and have current rabies and distemper immunizations; cats must have distemper shots. Call Santa Cruz Animal Shelter, 475-6454, for further information.

Monterey County Humane Society is currently remodeling its spay and neuter Clinic, but county residents may be referred to a vet who is temporarily assuming these surgical services at his private office. Fees are, for dogs: F $35, M $25; and cats: F $30, and M $15. All animals must have distemper vaccinations prior to surgery; rabies shots and licenses are not required. For information, contact the Humane Society, 373-2631.

BODY-WORK AND CAR PAINTING. Call Jimmy Hopper at 722-9520.

DRAFTING, BLUEPRINTS. Call Dale Andrews at 722-9520.

TUTORING. Francine Carroll will tutor in reading, math, etc., and will help others who wish to tutor to form a service group. Call her at 728-2749, evenings.

NOVICE BIRD WATCHING. Francine Carroll would like to meet for this purpose. 728-2749

MOVIE: ICHABOD AND MR. TOAD will play at the Fox Theater in Watsonville, Saturday, November 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. All seats 50¢.

There are two kinds of gratitude:
The sudden kind we feel for what we take, and
the larger kind we feel for what we give.
Robinson

Great Spirit, help me never to judge
another until I have walked in his
moccassins for two weeks.
Indian Prayer

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour the mill,
And back of the mill is the wheat
And the showers and and the sun
And the Father's will.
Maltbie D. Babcock

Best of all is it to preserve
everything in a pure, still
heart, and let there be for
every breath a song.
Gesner

You cannot hope to enjoy the
harvest without laboring in
the field.
Author Unknown

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

An AIR of reverence and sincere appreciation. Aromas School principal, Duane Peterson, approved the materialization of the AIR. Our contributing writers, reporters, and advisors are expanding the AIR. Our able typist, Mary Parker, condenses the AIR. The AROMAS AIR force is indeed viable. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Folks